

program is unsustainable, but particularly the lower income workers pay in less than they will eventually take out over a lifetime. Adding all of these workers into the Social Security and Medicare system, where they pay in, will not place us on a sound path.

Again, we need to be honest about where we are. The numbers do not look good. This Congress needs to wrestle with how to deal compassionately with the people who have been here a long time. We need to do it in a right way, but we have a responsibility, a financial duty to the people who sent us here to manage their money wisely and not make our financial situation worse than it is today. We have an obligation to try to figure out a way to reverse the steady, long-term trend of wage decline for millions of American workers. It needs to be getting better. What this report says is that if this bill is passed, this immigration bill is passed, it will make the long-term wage situation of Americans worse. How wrong a direction could that be?

Look, if we let the labor market get a little tighter, we are going to find businesses that are willing to pay more to get a good worker. That is the free market. These business guys don't mind trying—Walmart seeks the very lowest priced product it can get, whether it is China or the United States. They are ruthless about it. It is free market, we say. We value it. OK, we support free market. But if there is a labor shortage, why shouldn't the laboring man be able to get a little higher wage for a change around here? This large flow of immigration will impact, adversely, their ability to find a job—unemployment will go up, according to the report—and we'll get a decrease in wages.

I yield the floor.

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I would like to indicate support for two amendments I cosponsored and were introduced by Senator THUNE and Senator VITTER.

The first is amendment No. 1197 introduced by Senator THUNE. Border security should be the number one priority in any immigration discussion, and building this fence which is already required by law will help in that endeavor.

The second is Amendment No. 1228 introduced by Senator VITTER. This requires that the biometric border check-in and check-out system be fully implemented prior to any legal status being granted to an illegal alien. Our national and economic security depends on us knowing who is in our country, and this amendment will help achieve that goal.

While I strongly disagree with granting amnesty to those who broke the law, on the chance that this bill passes I want to make sure that amendments like the two of these are included in the final legislation.●

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## TRIBUTE TO ARNOLD LEE WATSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a selfless Kentuckian, Mr. Arnold Lee Watson of Letcher County, KY. Watson voluntarily devotes his time and skills to raise money for the Veterans Program Trust Fund.

Mr. Watson is the father-in-law of Letcher County Clerk Winston Meade. Together they have created a service that is becoming popular among many Kentucky counties. As license plates are dropped off in the Letcher County office, Watson turns the old plates into pieces of art. Meade and Watson build and sell license plate birdhouses statewide in an effort to raise money for veterans' homes in eastern, central, and western Kentucky.

Meade first saw these birdhouses after he purchased two at a meeting with the Kentucky County Clerks Association. Mr. Watson is retired and saw that he could spend time making birdhouses to raise money for H.A.V.E., or Help A Veteran Everyday. His interest in helping veterans is inspired by his brothers, all who have served our country.

Help a Veteran Everyday, or H.A.V.E., is a program that was adopted in 2005 by the County Clerks of Kentucky. Across the Commonwealth, counties are taking actions to collect donations for the organization which helps ensure that Kentucky's 339,000 veterans are provided for.

I ask unanimous consent that an article from a local publication extolling the work of Mr. Watson be printed in the RECORD. Since this article was published, Watson has built more than 7,000 birdhouses and raised \$140,000 in proceeds for Kentucky veterans. In addition, he placed third in an arts-and-crafts competition at the Kentucky State Fair in 2010.

Mr. Arnold Lee Watson's dedication and hard work not only helped Letcher County raise the most funds across the State, but also provided Kentucky veterans with the support and benefits they deserve.

"He loves working on them," Meade said of Watson in regard to building the license plate birdhouses.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Mountain Eagle, Jan. 21, 2009]

## TURNING OLD PLATES INTO \$\$\$

(By Sally Barto)

If old newspapers can be used to line birdcages, then old license plates can be used to build birdhouses—about five a day, in the case of one Letcher County man.

Arnold Lee Watson has been building birdhouses using old license plates as a roof, then selling them to raise money for the Veterans Program Trust Fund on behalf of the Letcher County Clerk's Office.

Watson, of McRoberts, is the father-in-law of Letcher County Clerk Winston Meade. He decided to begin building the unique and colorful birdhouses after Meade attended a meeting of the Kentucky County Clerks Association and brought home two similar birdhouses that were made elsewhere.

Watson has made about 50 birdhouses so far and the clerk's office has sold 19, with proceeds going to the Help a Veteran Everyday, or H.A.V.E. program.

Meade said Watson, who has three brothers who are veterans, donates the materials and time used to make the birdhouses.

"He wanted to do something to help veterans and this is his way to help," said Meade.

The birdhouses, which are being sold for \$20 each, are made to resemble a mailbox and have a painted wooden base with an old license plate draped over the top.

Depending on the specialty license plates obtained by Meade, the roofs of the birdhouses have different themes including nature, colleges, and volunteer fire fighting. Meade said the most popular style of birdhouse is made using an old University of Kentucky license plate.

Meade has traveled to several counties looking for unique plates to use for making more birdhouses. People can donate old plates to the clerk's office for the birdhouse project.

Selling license plate birdhouses is the latest effort by Meade's office to raise money for the H.A.V.E. program. All money raised through H.A.V.E., created by the Kentucky County Clerk's Association, goes to the Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund. The trust fund, established by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1988, helps support projects and programs for Kentucky veterans.

The Homeless Veterans Transitional Treatment program in Lexington was established with funds from the trust. Money from the fund was also used to purchase 10 vans for the Disabled American Veterans organization, to purchase land for a state veterans cemetery, and to enhance state veterans' nursing homes.

"Every penny is spent on the veterans," said Meade. "None of it is spent on salaries or anything like that."

Meade was named 2008 clerk of the year for the H.A.V.E. program for his efforts of raising money for the program.

"This county has raised more money for the H.A.V.E. fund than any other county in the state," said Meade. "I was real honored to receive this. I give the girls in the office the credit for the funds they have raised for H.A.V.E."

The clerk's office hosted a golf scramble at Raven Rock Golf Course in September in which funds raised from the scramble were used to finance a Christmas party for the East Kentucky Veterans' Center in Hazard. During that time, the center served seven residents from Letcher County.

When people purchase the veterans' specialty license plate, \$5 of the cost of the plate goes into the H.A.V.E. fund. The clerk's office also welcomes cash donations to H.A.V.E.

"This is one way to give back and to thank (veterans) for what they have done for us," said Meade.

## TRIBUTE TO MARK AND MICHELE PANOZZO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the